



## State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD  
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267  
COLUMBIA 29211

May 20, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Regulation of broadband through the Communications Act

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

After several years of unprecedented growth and opportunity, the state of South Carolina is faced with shrinking personal budgets and pessimistic economic forecasts. Job creation may not be considered a role for the FCC but, in today's economy and with today's communications technologies, I can imagine no greater need that you could help to address.

Unfortunately, the recent proposal to regulate the Internet under Title II of the Communications Act is not going to take us down the path to economic recovery. With respect, the proposal as presented is far more likely to lead us deeper into economic uncertainty.

I have no substantive disagreement over the need to protect the open and free characteristics of the Internet. Likewise, the goal of ensuring that all Americans have access to broadband services deserves broad support. South Carolina has seen the tremendous impact broadband technology has had on our society as small businesses have expanded their markets, telemedicine and distance learning have moved from the realm of science fiction to daily reality and high-quality jobs have been created. Looking toward the future, and the possibility of 100 percent broadband availability, we can envision additional jobs and innovation fueled by the investment of private capital.

Now a proposal to place regulations designed for a monopoly industry on a successful technology, flourishing in a competitive market, threatens the growth of broadband. Regulating the Internet under Title II will create a climate of uncertainty for broadband providers. At precisely the time South Carolina depends on new capital investment to help jumpstart economic growth, unnecessary government intrusion into an effective, competitive marketplace will chill the prospects for future investment and growth. To our citizens, this means continued unemployment struggles, lost education opportunities and higher taxes.

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Here in South Carolina, we have worked diligently at both the state and local levels to create and maintain an environment that attracts and retains business. For example, the new Boeing facility near Charleston is already stimulating additional job growth as Boeing employees, vendors and suppliers locate in the Lowcountry. Broadband technology has an even greater potential to create jobs and impact lives in positive ways, and capitalizing on that promise will require substantial private investment.

In my time in the Governor's Office, I have learned the importance of concentrating our political efforts in the areas that bring the most benefits. I firmly believe that stimulating the continued growth of broadband and working toward the attainable goal of 100 percent availability certainly fits that criteria. Consequently, I urge you to reconsider this ill-timed and unnecessary regulatory proposal and instead focus on policies that will deliver jobs and other benefits of broadband to South Carolinians and all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Sanford

MS/ll

cc: The Honorable Meredith Attwell Baker  
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn  
The Honorable Michael J. Copps  
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell